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May 2, 1960

Mr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Josh:

Many thanks for your letter of April 26th, regarding the Stanford accelerator.

As you surmised, we have been as active as we possibly could be in this regard.

I personally put in quite a bit of time with Senator Gore and I believe those of us that spent this time with him have produced a material change in his attitude which you may have noticed in the newspapers.

I would, however, like to point out that the type of indignant intervention which you imply might be employed on our part is exactly what we cannot do. The Advisory Committee on Science and Technology does indeed have great weight, but it does so in a steady policy forming way, not in an immediate issue way. We do have excellent access to all of the important Democrats, including all of the Presidential candidates with the exception of Lyndon Johnson, and our voice is definitely heard by them. Unfortunately, our influence does not yet extend all through the Hill and we are not able to cover every member of every appropriations committee in time to prevent him from making quite a fool of himself. To do this would take a staff and organization which, frankly, we cannot possibly set up.

In the instance of this accelerator the first inkling that something was going wrong came about four days before it was possible to act. We brought considerable pressure to bear and we were assured that the necessary funding for the coming year was in fact forthcoming and we were also assured that ~~the future~~ <sup>the future</sup> a year from now of this appropriation would essentially be guaranteed. I believe that the members of the Physics Department at Stanford are not satisfied with this, but I would not be at all too sure that the about-face which has taken place is just about as much as could possibly be expected on a three day notice. I suspect that the money for the accelerator will be forthcoming, will be supported by Democratic committees, and that the Physics people should be just a little bit more willing to agree that one hundred million dollars is a big sum of money and could be subject to some political wondering.

The opinion that I had from quite well advised party quarters was that the three million dollar advance for the first year's work is probably all that could be spent anyway and would put them definitely well along in the actual process of getting the accelerator going.

I'm most happy indeed to have your reactions and I hope you'll continue to give further of them. The running of such a committee is necessarily somewhat amateur, in fact it is quite astonishing to one who sees the Democratic Party from the inside how amateur the whole running of the Party is. It relies heavily on volunteer work and the necessary staff work that should be done in an important organization simply does not get done.

One of the things I would like to ask you would be whether you would be willing to be a member of our committee. It involves three sessions a year and a review of perhaps half a dozen documents and is not, for a committee member, very time-consuming. A fairly heavy burden of work does fall on those who live in the Washington area and perhaps on me also but it is not too bad for everyone else.

I once again repeat I am most happy to have your reactions. I hope I can give you a straight forward appraisal of the position whenever you write me.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ernie", written in dark ink.

Ernest C. Pollard

ECP:cw